

Mr. Steve Leggett

March 14, 1993

Library of Congress

Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division

Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Leggett:

I am a graduate student in American literature at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., and I am writing you to express my concern on a number of issues concerning the film preservation study being conducted by the Librarian of Congress. I also write as a film lover (I suspect you are one, too) and as a future professor of film who needs your assistance to insure that my students--all students--will be able, because such films have been preserved, to view in perpetuity the feast of American films.

Academics have a stake in film preservation because we teach film history and appreciation to our students and we study film ourselves as critics and theorists of film. Without a reservoir of films to draw upon our understanding and that of our students will lack the richness and depth a complete national film library should supply.

In addition, preservation without access would be not only meaningless; it would constitute censorship. Any preservation legislation must ensure that educators, scholars and appropriate institutions have access to these preserved films for viewing. In a world where the moving image is increasingly as important as the printed word, and where every movie-goer is a film scholar, the selection of films for preservation should reflect the diversity of both the films produced (independent films/ethnic and

documentaries, shorts, etc.), as well as the diversity of America. Clearly, additional funding for the necessary restoration and preservation of films is necessary to achieve these goals, and should be requested as part of any preservation legislation.

Please inform me if I can assist the library's film division in its plans to preserve and restore America's film legacy. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,


Patricia Ard

11 Farragut Pl.

Morristown, N.J. 07960

cc: Senator Bill Bradley

Senator Frank Lautenberg

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING
AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION